PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT Attorney Docket No.: Q96751

Application No.: 10/591,249

## AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT

Please replace the present Abstract of the Disclosure with the following amended

Abstract of the Disclosure (a copy of the amended Abstract which can be substituted into
the application is attached):

A major object of the invention is to provide such a method for extracting slurry that is not inhibited in extraction of slurry by a released and accumulated matter or a solid matter sedimented and accumulated at the bottom of the vessel. The invention relates to a method for extracting slurry by extracting slurry from an agitation vessel having a bottom face and a side wall and housing the slurry, characterized in that the slurry is extracted from an open end of a slurry extraction tube provided at the side wall of the agitation vessel. More preferably, a normal line direction of a surface of the open end is in a direction of an angle with respect to a downstream direction of a flow of the slurry caused by agitation of 0° or more and less than 90°.

The invention relates to a method for extracting slurry by extracting slurry from an agitation vessel having a bottom face and a side wall and housing the slurry, characterized in that the slurry is extracted from an open end of a slurry extraction tube provided at the side wall of the agitation vessel. More preferably, a normal line direction of a surface of the open end is in a direction of an angle with respect to a downstream direction of a flow of the slurry caused by agitation of 0° or more and less than 90°.